

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 828

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Frank William "Billy" Hicks, Jr. of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Frank William "Billy" Hicks, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hicks was a friend to all and a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Atascadero, California, on February 25, 1947, he was the son of Christine Liberto and Frank Hicks; as an infant, he moved with his family to New Orleans, where he and his older sister Francis and younger brother Glen spent their early years; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hicks first moved to the Bluff City when he was seven years old; by age nine, he had already begun to make his presence known in the local business community by hawking hot dogs and cokes at the Auditorium North Hall downtown; and

WHEREAS, from those humble beginnings, Mr. Hicks began a lifelong professional association with theatrical and stage productions of all types; he became a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees Local 69 after only three years of apprenticeship and was elected President in 1979; and

WHEREAS, with the construction of the Memphis Cook Convention Center, this natural entrepreneur identified an opportunity and seized it, forming what was then known as Hicks Theatrical Supply and assuming the position of Convention Services Coordinator for the new MCCC; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the convention business has thrived in Memphis, and much of its growth and success is due to the great leadership and vision of this incomparable man; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks served with acumen and great energy as President and Chief Executive Officer of Hicks Convention Services and Special Events, earning the admiration of

his clients and the respect of his peers for the exemplary quality of his work and unwavering dedication to excellence in all his endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hicks loved helping people although he sought no recognition for it; in December, he organized a New Orleans parade in honor of the University of Memphis football team's first bowl appearance in more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, this was only the latest of countless efforts he made on behalf of worthy organizations in his beloved community; over the years, he served as Chairman of the Board of the Memphis Cancer Foundation and the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, a member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Gridiron Show, Inc., Assistant Rabban of Al Chymia Shrine Center, and Chief Barker of Variety Children's Charities; and

WHEREAS, he was actively involved with dozens of charities, including the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Madonna Day Care Center, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Baddour Memorial Center, Variety Clubs International Children's Charities, and the International Children's Heart Foundation, and he helped to raise many thousands of dollars for Memphians less fortunate than himself; and

WHEREAS, the personal, professional, and civic excellence of Mr. Hicks had been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the 1992 Convention Development Award, 1994 UNICO Italian-American of the Year, and 1995 Memphis Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Distinguished American Award, and he was a finalist in *The Memphis Business Journal's* 1991 Small Business Awards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks was a devout Christian and an active member of Trafalgar Village Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Billy Hicks enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 37 years, Jackie Hicks, and was the loving father of Tammy Bailey, Billy Hicks, III, and Richard Hicks, and the proud grandfather of three; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed also by his sister, Francis Potter, his brother, Glen Hicks, and a host of friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hicks leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to the greater Memphis community and this State will not soon be forgotten, as they greatly enhanced the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Frank William "Billy" Hicks, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his unsurpassed spirit of charity, and his excellent and generous work in so many endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hicks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.